



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
Mayor Mary Clare Higgins
City Hall, 210 Main Street - Room 12
Northampton, MA 01060-3199
(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

Dear Northampton Resident:

In March 2010, a federal census form will be mailed to your home. Local funding for essential public services for children, schools, low-income families, and public infrastructure depends on the Census data. It is very important that everyone in Northampton be counted, even if you don't live here year round and regardless of legal residency status.

The federal census form is not the same as the local annual census. The annual census form is mandated by the State of Massachusetts and is sent out by the City Clerk in January/February. It is important to complete both forms.

The purpose of the federal Census is to count everyone living in Northampton and to know your age, sex, and race. Your answers are guaranteed to be kept confidential and will NOT be used for any other purpose. Only the Census Bureau has access to this information.

Here are a few reasons why federal Census data is important to Northampton:

- Determines how many Congressional districts we have in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is losing population and is at risk of losing a Congressional district lessening our representation on the federal level - more likely to negatively impact western MA.
- Determines eligibility and distribution of federal funding for public services for children, low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Determines eligibility and distribution of federal funding for public infrastructure, schools, public safety, transportation, housing, and economic development projects.

Please be counted! Your participation allows Northampton to take full advantage of federal services and funding.

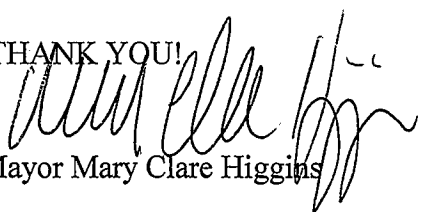
If you do not receive a form or if you need help filling out the form, contact the Mayor's Office at 587-1249. Please complete and return your 2010 census form by April 1, 2010.

IT IS FAST (10 minutes)

IT IS SAFE (your information is confidential)

IT IS IMPORTANT (for our community to be counted at the federal level)

THANK YOU!


Mayor Mary Clare Higgins